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CONFIDENTIAL.

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS

BETWEEN

GREAT BRITAIN AND MOROCCO.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 5534.]

1888.

11

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Commercial Negotiations between Great Britain and Morocco.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 5534.]

No. 1.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 5. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 11, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of a communication from the Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, as well as a translation of the conditions alluded to in that communication, announcing that the Sultan has permitted the transport by sea of grain (wheat and barley) from one Moorish port to another for the space of six months, beginning from the 15th January.

This boon, which is principally calculated to benefit those subjects of the Sultan who live in districts which have a short supply of wheat and barley, has been so grudgingly granted, that I fear it cannot be expected to produce the increase of activity in the coasting trade of Morocco which would have arisen had the Moorish Government followed more closely the representations on the matter which myself and my colleagues have been making to it for some time past.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Sir W. K. Green.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *February* 10, 1888.

I HAVE to inform you that our Lord the Sultan has been pleased to permit the transport of wheat and barley from port to port in the Empire of Morocco to the public for the advantage of the inhabitants of this country: this permission is, however, limited to a period of six months, beginning with the current month and ending with the month of Shuwal next, according to the four conditions mentioned in the Shereefian letters to the Oomana of the ports. We have already sent the Shereefian orders to the Oomana. Peace!

(Signed) MAHOMMED TORRES.

Jumady I, 27, 1305 (*February* 10, 1888).

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Conditions mentioned in the Shereefian Letter to the Administrators of Customs at the Moorish Ports with regard to Coasting Trade in Wheat and Barley.

1. THE grain to be conveyed from one port to another shall be weighed at the port of embarkation and the port of destination.

2. Double the duty chargeable shall be deposited at the port of embarkation, and shall be refunded to the sender as soon as the administrators of Customs at this port receive notice of the landing of the grain from the administrators at the port of destination.

3. The administrators at the port of shipping shall fix a time sufficient for the grain to reach its port of destination, and for the necessary document from the administrators of this port to be presented to the administrators of the port of shipping. To those who fulfil this formality within the prescribed time the money deposited will be refunded, but in the contrary case the senders of grain will not be entitled to claim back their deposit money.

4. When the period of six months shall have elapsed the Government will suspend the exportation of grain. If any merchant alleges that he has still some grain in his possession which he had bought for the purpose of exporting it, and that the vessel has not arrived in time to take it, this or any similar excuse will not be attended to, and the grain remaining in his possession will not be exported.

No. 2.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)

Tangier, February 14, 1888.

My Lord,

I THINK it right to explain to your Lordship, with reference to the permission accorded by the Sultan for a coasting trade in barley and wheat, to be carried on for six months (*vide* my despatch No. 5, Commercial, of the 11th instant), that the measure must not be accepted as a conclusive proof that His Shercefian Majesty is about to adopt a liberal commercial policy.

I have reason to fear that the Sultan has been advised to create an impression of his desire to encourage commerce and intercourse solely with a view to meeting the known intention of some of the foreign Governments to stipulate at the coming Conference at Madrid for some valid commercial advantages in exchange for the abandonment of the privilege of exercising protection over Moors in European employ.

The present concession, however, when closely examined, is, like most of the asserted facilities granted by the Sultan, of limited or no value. The term of six months at once recedes to one of five months through the delay which has arisen in the publication of the Decree, and will expire before the new wheat and barley crops come in to enable the northern districts of Morocco to avail themselves to a large extent of the abundance of grain in the western regions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 3.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 29.)

(No. 51. Commercial. Confidential.)

Madrid, February 25, 1888.

My Lord,

IN view of a probability of the Conference on Moorish affairs meeting shortly in this city, I venture to state to your Lordship that I find myself imperfectly informed as to the general line which Her Majesty's Government would propose taking in the treatment of commercial questions at the Conference, or the nature of the requirements which would be made on the part of Her Majesty's Government to be carried out by the Government of His Shereefian Majesty.

The commercial negotiations which have hitherto been carried on between Great Britain and Morocco do not appear to me, so far as I am in a position to judge, to have reached any definite shape.

In 1881 Sir John D. Hay received from your Lordship's Department a draft Treaty of Commerce to be negotiated as a revision of the Treaty of 1856, and at the close of the year 1885 the Moorish Government appointed a Commission to carry on the negotiations with Sir John D. Hay. The matter, however, had been complicated owing to a desire which had been expressed by several foreign Governments to join in these negotiations. For some time Her Majesty's Government went hand in hand with that of Germany, and the French appear also to have practically been admitted to a share in the negotiations. To both the German and French Governments copies were communicated of the draft Treaty sent to Sir John D. Hay. Then Portugal asked leave to take a part in the negotiations, which was declined. Spain and Italy also asked, but I am unable to state what reception they met with.

No doubt a reasonable fear is entertained by Her Majesty's Government lest the object of most of the foreign Governments may not rather be to impede than to facilitate the conclusion of a Treaty which would be satisfactory to Great Britain.

I believe one of the principal difficulties is the question of the export of grain.

Any information on this important subject would be of the greatest value to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 4.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 25. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, March 6, 1888.

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 51, Commercial, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, I have to observe that the volumes of printed Confidential correspondence forwarded with my despatch No. 106, Commercial, of the 2nd November last, will have made you acquainted with the nature and scope of the commercial negotiations carried on at Tangier by the Representatives of Great Britain, Germany, and France.

The papers noted in the margin* indicate the attitude taken by Her Majesty's Government in regard to the participation of Italy and Spain in these negotiations. I inclose a copy of the Confidential correspondence of 1887, which contains later papers on the subject; and, for convenience of reference, a duplicate copy of further print lately supplied to you.

The general considerations to be borne in mind in the negotiation of a new Commercial Treaty with Morocco are set forth in my despatch to Sir J. Drummond Hay, No. 3, Commercial, of the 30th April, 1878 (Part I, p. 9). And there seems to be no reason for departing from the Draft of Convention settled between the British, German, and French Plenipotentiaries in 1886 (Part II, pp. 29-36), at least in its general terms.

The Papers with which you have been furnished show that there are considerable difficulties connected with this negotiation, not only on account of circumstances depending upon the state of affairs in Morocco, but also with reference to the attitude of certain Foreign Representatives at Tangier. While, on the one hand, the new Treaty should be simple and clear in its stipulations, it is necessary that its provisions should be full and complete, in order to prevent ambiguity of meaning, and future disputes in consequence of any points of importance to British trade having been passed over in silence.

The best course may be for you to communicate in the first instance with the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and with the Representatives of France and Germany, in order to ascertain their views as to the commercial arrangements which may be usefully proposed at the Madrid Conference. It may likewise be desirable that you should consult Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on points of detail, and whether he advises any modification of the terms of the Draft Convention of 1886. You should then report to me the result of these communications, with your own remarks on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Part II, Nos. 17 and 36.

No. 5.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 77. Commercial.)

Madrid, March 24, 1888.

My Lord,

I HAVE duly received your Lordship's despatch No. 25, Commercial, of the 6th instant, which reached me by the messenger on the 20th of this month, relative to the treatment of the question of commercial relations with Morocco regarding which I had asked for your Lordship's instructions in my despatch No. 51, Commercial, of the 25th ultimo, in the event of the proposed Conference ever meeting at Madrid on Moorish affairs.

I gather from your Lordship's despatch, that the general considerations to be borne in mind in the negotiation of a new Commercial Treaty with Morocco are set forth in your Lordship's despatch to Sir J. Drummond Hay on the 30th April, 1878, and that there is no reason to depart from the draft Convention settled between the British, German, and French Representatives in 1886, at least in its general terms.

Your Lordship further states that any new Treaty should be simple and clear in its stipulations, and that its provisions should be full and complete in order to prevent ambiguity of meaning and future disputes, in consequence of any points of importance to British trade having been passed over in silence.

With regard to the concluding portion of your Lordship's despatch, I have the honour to state that I have spoken to Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, on the subject, and he has assured me that he has no observations to offer, except that he is quite ready and willing to follow England's lead in all matters concerning commercial relations with Morocco.

The German Minister at this Court, M. Stumm, has informed me in reply to my inquiry that he will refer the matter to his Government, and that he is personally of opinion that he will receive a similar reply to that given by Señor Moret.

M. Cambon, whom I saw to-day, and who leaves for Paris this afternoon, has promised to ascertain the views of his Government as to the commercial arrangements which may, in their opinion, be usefully proposed at the Madrid Conference.

Finally, I have the honour to state to your Lordship that I shall not fail to consult Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on points of detail, and whether he advises any modification of the draft Convention of 1886, and in due course I shall have the honour to address your Lordship again on this subject, giving the result of these communications with any remarks I may have to offer respecting it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 6.

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 30.)

Manchester, March 29, 1888.

My Lord,

THE Board of Directors of this Chamber desires to call your Lordship's attention to the present state of the commercial relations between this country and Morocco, especially in regard to the excessive duties levied on the exportation of grain.

I venture to remind your Lordship of the letter addressed to the Foreign Office on the 5th November, 1884, when some hopes were entertained that a revision of the Commercial Convention would soon take place, and that beneficial results would emanate therefrom.

It appears that the Moorish Commissioners appointed to confer with Sir John Drummond Hay were actually in Tangier in the month of December 1885, and the Board has reason to know that Sir John Hay was indefatigable in his endeavours to obtain, *inter alia*, a modification of the export duties on grain. Since that date this Chamber has not been able to learn that any steps have been taken by the Moorish Government in the direction then urged by Sir John Hay.

Representations are again made to this Board, by merchants interested in the trade of Morocco, that the present scale of duties on the exportation of grain from that country is altogether anomalous. It may suffice to mention only one or two instances. The present value of beans in the ports of Morocco is about 12*s.* per

quarter, and that of maize about 11*s.* per quarter; and the export duty on both kinds of grain, as well as on peas, is 8*s.* to 8*s.* 6*d.* per quarter.

It will thus be seen that the duties amount to about 70 per cent. of the value of the grain at the port of shipment; and when the cost of transit is taken into account, the prices obtainable in the interior of the country must be too low to offer inducement to the cultivators: with the low range of values now ruling in England, viz., beans about 24*s.* and maize about 23*s.* per quarter, there is a danger that the production of such grain in the Empire of Morocco for export purposes will altogether cease; whereas the abolition, or even a substantial reduction of the export duty, would at once convey a corresponding benefit to the producer (thereby giving him a powerful stimulus), and would, moreover, largely assist in developing the general trade of the country.

In thus venturing to bring this matter before your Lordship, the Board of this Chamber will be glad to be favoured with information as to the present state of negotiations with the Moorish Government, and to learn whether there is any prospect of a relaxation of the excessive duties at present levied on the export of grain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. FOX TURNER, *Secretary.*

No. 7.

Foreign Office to Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Foreign Office, April 3, 1888.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, and, in reply, I am to request that you will inform the Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce that the subject of the commercial relations between this country and Morocco continues to engage the attention of Her Majesty's Government, and that no opportunity will be lost of taking steps to effect improvement in them.

It is not possible at present to make any more definite statement, but the Chamber may be assured that their representations will be borne in mind.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 8.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.

(No. 11. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, April 30, 1888.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of Part II of "Further Correspondence respecting Commercial Negotiations between Great Britain and Morocco," containing the correspondence which took place in 1886.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 9.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 42. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, April 30, 1888.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of Part II of "Further Correspondence respecting Commercial Negotiations between Great Britain and Morocco," containing the correspondence which took place in 1886.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Confidential No. 5599.

5 END

No. 10.

Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 15.)

Liverpool, August 13, 1888.

My Lord,

I AM directed to hand you copy of a Resolution lately passed at a meeting of the members of this Chamber summoned to hear the reading of a paper by Mr. Donald Mackenzie on the subject of Morocco.

The Resolution, at first passed provisionally, has since been considered by the Council of the Chamber and approved, and I am to ask that your Lordship will kindly take the views therein expressed into consideration in framing a new Treaty with Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS H. BARKLY, *Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 10.

Resolution.

Resolved,—That the British Government be requested, in conjunction with other Powers, to impress upon the Sultan of Morocco the immediate necessity of granting a new Treaty of Commerce framed in a liberal spirit, providing—

1. For the unrestricted export of all the products of Morocco.
2. That the facilities given to foreigners at Tangier to acquire land and to build houses and stores may be extended to all parts of the Empire, and that the country should otherwise be opened up to capital and enterprise.
3. That the present system of protecting natives by the Representatives of foreign Powers should be abolished, and that international Tribunals should be established in its place.

(Signed) THOMAS H. BARKLY, *Secretary.*

No. 11.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.

(No. 12. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, August 17, 1888.

Sir,

I INCLOSE, for your information, copy of a letter from the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool,* forwarding copy of a Resolution passed by the Chamber in favour of the conclusion of a new Treaty of Commerce with Morocco.

The Chamber has been informed that the matter is receiving the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 12.

Foreign Office to Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool.

Foreign Office, August 17, 1888.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, inclosing a copy of a Resolution recently passed at a meeting of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool in favour of the conclusion of a new Treaty of Commerce with Morocco.

In reply, I am to request you to inform the Chamber that the matter is receiving the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

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* No. 10.